

appoint a Chief of Defence Staff exercising an overall supervision and control over the three Chiefs of Staff of Army, Navy and Air Force;

(b) if so, the reasons for creation of the new post and what would be his status and functions; and

(c) whether the incumbent to the new post would be selected from the three Chiefs of the Defence Services by rotation and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GoM has *inter alia* recommended creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This would amongst others facilitate better utilization of the national resources through establishment of requisite jointness amongst the Armed Forces, ensure *inter se* and *intra se* prioritization of the equipment related requirements of the Services and also facilitate single point military advice being made available to the Government. As per recommendations of the GoM, the CDS will be a 4-star officer drawn from one of the three Services and shall function as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The recommendations of the GoM have been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001. After examination and acceptance of the Report by the Government, action as required will be taken expeditiously.

Detection of Spy Aircrafts

4437. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US spy aircraft has been detected in China;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that similar spy aircrafts fly over India and not a single spy aircraft has been detected;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that indigenous technology is not useful for the safety and security of the nation; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check the foreign spy aircrafts flying over the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) No "spy aircraft" has been detected, though aircraft on surveillance mission have.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) There are set procedure to detect intruding aircraft. Once detected, the air defence system takes all appropriate action.

Shifting of firing field in Hyderabad

4438. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army's firing field in Hyderabad, which was located outside the residential area, has now been covered by the residential houses;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it has now become more and more inconvenient to the residents of the area;

(c) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Central Government to shift the firing field; and

(d) if so, whether authorities would be instructed to shift the field and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) and (b) Lake Line Rifle Ranges, Shamirpet, the only firing range available in the station since 1964 for training personnel in uniform, has slowly been surrounded by increased pupulation of Hyderabad city.

(c) and (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has raised this issue in his discussions with the *Raksha Mantri*. Government of Andhra Pradesh, who have been approached for an alternative range, has not yet indicated any alternative site for the range.